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KING'S COLLEGE, London, has received an anonymous gift of £25,000 towards the liquidation of its debt.

MR. JOHN P. ASHLEY, PH.D., has been elected President of Albion College, at Albion, Mich., succeeding Dr. Lewis R. Fiske, who has resigned, owing to advanced age, after twenty years of service.

DR. E. G. LANCASTER has been appointed professor of psychology and pedagogy at Colorado College.

A CHAIR of 'tropical diseases,' with Dr. J. E. Stubbert as the first incumbent, has been established in the New York University Medical College.

A COMMITTEE has been formed in London to present a plan for a London University, to be called University of Westminster, in case the bill before Parliament meets with continued opposition. The present degree-conferring University of London would according to the plan remain unchanged, while the different institutions of London would form themselves into a faculty of law, a faculty of medicine, etc., each institution to be financially independent and only to agree on the nature and duration of the studies required for degrees and distinctions.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

IN REGARD TO THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY AT WOODS HOLL, MASS.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE.—A full and adequate rejoinder to the statement which appeared in SCIENCE October 8, 1897, has been prepared and is now ready. In our opinion, however, controversial matters relating to the management of a scientific institution, especially when consisting of details, statistics or mooted points, are out of place in public prints. The subject is not of general interest, and discussion of this kind tends to injure any institution in the public estimation.

The undersigned, therefore, prefer to reply only to those concerned in the matter. To this end we shall issue to all members of the corporation and others concerned a detailed reply to the charges brought by the former Trustees. Others who may feel interested can obtain

copies by applying to the Secretary of the Trustees of the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Holl, Mass., or to either of the undersigned.

SAMUEL F. CLARKE,  
EDW. G. GARDINER,  
J. PLAYFAIR McMURRICH.

#### SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

*Anthropologische Studien ueber die Ureinwohner Brasiliens.* Von DR. PAUL EHRENREICH. Braunschweig, Vieweg und Sohn. 1897. 4to. Pp. 168. 30 Plates.

This work ranks among the most valuable which have appeared for years in American Anthropology. It is, to be sure, somewhat limited in its area of observation, being principally confined to the states of Matto Grosso, Goyaz and Amazonas in Brazil; but this is more than compensated by the abundance and accuracy of the material, and the skill with which the author has brought it into bearing on the leading general questions relating to the American race.

These are treated in the general portion of the volume, occupying forty-five pages. It embraces two chapters, one on the aims and methods of physical anthropology and its bearings on ethnology; the other specifically on the anthropologic position of the American race. Much of the former is concerned with defining such terms as race, type, people, stem, family, etc.; with the conclusion that race means blood relationship, and that the racial characteristics and variations are the only real objects of study in physical anthropology. The author is here on thin ice, and his definitions, carefully trimmed as they are, can often be punctured. Blood relationship, *Blutverwandschaft*, really means nothing, for, in one sense, the whole human species is related by blood; and as much might be said of other terms assumed to have a generally recognized sense. This merely shows how needful it is to settle on an international terminology in anthropology.

The chapter on the American race is more satisfactory. He regards it as strictly one, in the Blumenbachian sense. As for the question, Whence it came? He regards it superfluous to inquire, as it has certainly been on the continent from remotest human antiquity, probably